

longer than broad, with posterior processes truncate. Humeral process granulate, not keeled, little longer than broad, obtusely pointed, extending nearly as far back as occipito-nuchal process. Skin without villosities. Dorsal I 7; spine as long as head, feebly curved, striated, serrated behind. Adipose dorsal as long as or a little shorter than its distance from rayed dorsal. Anal IV 7. Pectoral spine strongly serrated on both sides. Caudal fin deeply notched, crescentic. Caudal peduncle about as long as deep. Pale brown above, white beneath; head with numerous small round dark brown spots; body with large round dark brown spots, the ground-colour between them forming a light network; fins white, with more or less regular black bands, 5 to 7 across dorsal, 3 or 4 across ventral and anal, 7 to 11 on caudal.

Total length 200 mm.

Mr. G. L. Bates obtained several specimens of this handsome fish at a waterfall of the Libi River, near the Ja River (Congo System), into which it flows.

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#### IV.—On a new Genus of Snakes from Brazil.

By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

AMONG some snakes from Brazil, submitted to me for identification by Dr. Vital Brazil, Director of the Serumtherapeutic Institute of S. Paulo, I was highly pleased to find a large specimen which represents a species which has hitherto escaped attention. In its physiognomy, head-shields, vertical pupil, and dentition it agrees with the genus *Oxyrhopus*, differing, however, in the scaling of the body, the scales being in 25 rows, those of the vertebral row distinctly enlarged. After some hesitation, I have decided not to place the snake in the genus *Oxyrhopus*, but to propose for it a new genus, which may be called *Rhachidelus*.

#### *Rhachidelus brazili.*

Eye moderately large, its diameter equal to its distance from the oral border and  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the snout, which is rounded, rather strongly depressed, and scarcely projecting. Rostral once and two-thirds as broad as deep, the portion visible from above measuring one-third its distance from the frontal; internasals nearly as long as broad, two-thirds the length of the præfrontals; frontal pentagonal, as long as

broad, twice as broad as the supraocular, as long as its distance from the rostral, a little shorter than the parietals; nostril large, between two nasals; loreal longer than deep; one præocular, not reaching upper surface of head; two post-oculars; temporals 3+4; eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are larger than the posterior. Scales smooth, with distinct paired apical pits, in 25 rows, those of the median row enlarged and nearly as long as broad. Ventrals 184; anal entire; subcaudals 80, the last 28 paired, the rest single. Dark brown above, strongly iridescent, with very indistinct traces of darker cross-bars; dark brown beneath, with small irregular yellowish blotches.

Total length 1320 mm.; tail 310.

A single male specimen from near the city of São Paulo.

V.—*Description of a new Newt.*

By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

[Plate IV.]

*Molge macrosoma*, sp. n.

Body cylindrical, much elongate,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as the head; distance between the limbs  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the distance between the end of the snout and the fore limb. Tail shorter than head and body, compressed, with dorsal and ventral crests, the muscular part thick. Head once and  $\frac{1}{4}$  as long as broad, moderately depressed, its depth once and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in its width; snout short, rounded; eyes small; no labial lobes; a ligamentous fronto-squamosal arch. Palatine teeth forming two nearly straight series, parallel and well separated from each other in front, feebly divergent behind, not extending forwards beyond the line of the choanæ. Limbs widely separated when pressed against the body. Third finger much longer than second; third toe slightly longer than fourth. Skin feebly warty; no dorsal crest or vertebral groove; a strong gular fold; no parotoids; no large pores on the head and sides. Uniform black, except the tips of the toes, the cloacal lips, and the lower edge of the tail, which are yellow.

	mm.
Total length . . . . .	175
From snout to vent . . . . .	93
Length of head . . . . .	17
Width of head . . . . .	13
Fore limb . . . . .	27
Hind limb . . . . .	27
Tail . . . . .	82